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Charter Committee seeks to keep public safe, use funds for 2022

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

GRANBY – For another year, Charter Days was cancelled.

What would have been a three-day event from June 11 to 13, was determined to be risky by elected officials as well as the Charter Day Committee.

Town Administrator Chris Martin read

a letter from the Charter Day Committee into the record stating that the committee recommended the cancellation of the annual event.

Granby Selectboard Chair Glenn Sexton said he couldn't see why the board would go forward with Charter Days given the committee's recommendation.

"I know a lot of people forward to it

and understand the reasons we can't have it," he said. "Maybe there's something we could do, like a fundraiser, so this doesn't just pass by."

The group agreed that it would be unwise to have Charter Days.

The Board of Health met on Feb. 16 to discuss Charter Days with Charter Day

See **CHARTER DAYS**, page 12 •

ARCHIVE
PHOTO

Granby
Board of
Health and
Select-
board
agreed
to cancel
Granby
Charter
Days for
the second
time.



Photo by Melina Bourdeau
Belchertown's COVID-19 cases have
"stalled" in the low to mid-20s ac-
cording to Quabbin Health Director
Judy Metcalf.

BOH opt to stay in Phase III, Step I

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – In a two to three split, the Board of Health voted to stay in phase three step one of Governor Charlie Baker's reopening plan for the state, rather than move into phase three step two.

Board of Health members Ken Elstein, Colleen Duroshea and Chair Lianne Connolly voted in favor of staying in phase three, step one while Jim Potter and Hope Guardenier opposed the motion.

Quabbin Health Director Judy Metcalf first provided the board with an update on the town's COVID-19 cases.

For the week of Feb. 21 to Feb. 27, there were 25 new cases.

"We have stalled around that 21 to 25 cases," Metcalf said. "The point I want to make, a point being made by public health experts across the country, is that March is a precarious point. Belchertown is stalling as is most of Massachusetts at this level, the US as a whole is stalling. March is kind of precarious - two things can happen, we're either see (cases) turn upward because of these variants taking hold or we'll be able to get our act together with vaccinations

See **REOPENING**, page 5 •

BELCHERTOWN

BOS talk executive session minutes

Town Admin leaves meeting early

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Following a discussion on executive session minutes Belchertown Town Administrator Gary Brougham left the Selectboard meeting on Monday evening, commenting he felt "insulted" by its members.

Selectboard member Ed Boscher proposed adding the topic of executive session minutes to the agenda following Selectboard member Nick O'Connor's announcement that he would not be seeking reelection in the spring.

"Nick will be gone in just a few weeks, we need review the minutes at a given time and make it a priority that this get done," he said.

O'Connor asked members if minutes would need to be approved in regular session or in an executive session.

Selectboard Chair Gail Gramarossa said she agreed with Boscher.

"There are enough of us to do this," she said. "Gary and I could work out the best way to do that and at a later meeting vote on their approval, if an executive session is necessary, we may need to add time on to the meetings in order to do it in that format."

Following the discussion, Brougham said the group insulted him, adding that the board would need to approve executive session minutes in an executive session.

"I want to say how insulted I feel that you don't have enough confidence in me to be voted in executive session or open session I've been doing this job for 27 years," he said. "And the answer is that they have be voted in executive session and they are released in public session. We don't need to go to town counsel, it's not a mystery, it's been done for years."

See **BOS**, page 4 •

REGION

Quabbin Health Director replacement selected

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Health District approved Stephen Bell as its next director following the retirement of Judy Metcalf.

Members of the district, composed of Belchertown, Ware and Pelham Boards of Health, met last week to vote on the matter. The group unanimously supported the recommendation of the health director search committee to appoint Bell.

Bell was unanimously approved by the district members with a starting salary of \$77,262.53.

To allow for overlap between Metcalf and Bell, his starting date will be on March 15 through April 24, which will be Metcalf's last day in person. She will still be an employee of the district

until June 30.

Belchertown Board of Health Chair Lianne Connolly said out of the two candidates, Bell was "the obvious choice."



Quabbin Health Director
Stephen Bell

"One of the main reasons was, not only his qualifications, but he's familiar with the system, he knows what he's getting into as far as three towns. There's a degree of variety in all three towns," she said. "He's working with Judy now and he's familiar with how the Quabbin Health District performs and

does their work." Member of the search committee and Ware resident John Desmond said he gave a strong recommendation to hire Bell. Desmond also played a role in hiring Metcalf.

"(Appointing Bell) would allow for a seamless transition, which

See **DIRECTOR**, page 3 •



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SERIES: IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

Residents share experiences with COVID-19

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – March 13, 2020 might stand out as a memorable date for people in Massachusetts, the date marking the year anniversary of what was supposed a two-week quarantine.

However, for Belchertown resident and paralegal Sarah Wolfe, March will mark a year since she contracted the novel coronavirus. The virus still affects Wolfe to this day, a condition which has become known as COVID longhaulers.

While she doesn't remember how she contracted COVID-19, Wolfe said she recalls it was before things were shut down.

"I was going to work and meeting with people as usual. Masks and social distancing weren't yet recommended, so I'm sure that going about life without those precautions was how I contracted the virus," Wolfe said. "I stayed home as soon as I felt sick, went to the doctor, and was told to stay home for two weeks. Which was easy to do, since my recovery took much longer than two weeks."

Wolfe said in the second week of March 2020, a sore throat, low-grade fever, aches and fatigue presented as initial symptoms.

"A few days later my cough started, along with chills, nausea, and a heavy feeling in my chest. My sister, a nurse in Worcester, was worried about me and asked me to call my doctor at that point," Wolfe said. "He told me it was very possible I had COVID, and probably halfway through two weeks of a mild case. There was a severe shortage of tests then, so I wasn't able to be tested, which was extremely frustrating."

A week later, the symptoms intensified, including chest pain and difficulty breathing.

"I checked in again with my doctor and was advised to stay at home unless my breathing worsened significantly," Wolfe said. "It was a scary time. I was unable to get out of bed I was so tired. A walk to the bathroom left me exhausted. I was reading



COURTESY PHOTO

Belchertown resident Sarah Wolfe (right) and their family.

stories about people dying at home, which did not help my anxiety. When I tried to sleep at night, I wondered if I'd still be alive in the morning."

These symptoms lasted one to three months for Wolfe, who commented that the worst ones were "extreme fatigue, chest pressure/pain, difficulty breathing and delirium/brain fog."

During this time, Wolfe didn't go to work for a few weeks, and it took several months to be able to sit at her desk in her home for a full day of work.

"My family was very worried while I was sick and recovering," Wolfe said. "My wife did an enormous amount of caregiving for me and for our daughter. Her own workplace shut down, but she was thankfully able to receive unemployment pay for a few months."

"Milder symptoms (varying degrees of fatigue, chest pain, and brain fog) have lasted until now-- almost a year later," Wolfe said. "They come and go. Sometimes I forget about them until I have an especially challenging day. An emotionally or physically draining day will usually remind me they're there."

Wolfe said the hardest symptom to live with was the "brain fog," which has also changed over time.

"Initially it felt like I couldn't hold onto a thought. I couldn't remember certain words or events. I knew where my brain was trying to go, but I could only swim towards it in slow motion, and sometimes I got lost on the way. It was like walking into a metaphorical room and not remembering why I was there," Wolfe said. "These days it's more like my brain is just done at the end of a work day or challenging event. There's no convincing it to keep going because I've used up all of my resources."

Wolfe is currently getting treatment for costochondritis, inflammation in the cartilage that connect the ribs to the chest bone, they suspect is causing the lingering chest pain, initially with steroids, and now with anti-inflammatories and physical therapy.

For many people the past year has been frustrating, and to Wolfe, "exhausting and emotional."

"Long haul COVID is not yet well-understood, so I had no roadmap to guide me," Wolfe said. "There were many times I felt disheartened by my slow progress, but I've tried to focus on slow and steady (though uneven) recovery."

See COVID, page 3 •



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Belchertown Police Chief talks police reform

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Police Chief Chris Pronovost came before the Selectboard to explain the ways the police reform bill will affect policing in Massachusetts.

The Selectboard unanimously supported Pronovost to make changes within the department to abide by the mandates by the state.

Pronovost told the board about the police reform legislation, which he says is “the most historic change to policing since the Miranda right.”

“Most notably, it creates a commission that will work out of Boston that will be responsible for a few things, mainly for the certification of the police officers, this is the biggest and the most important change,” he said. “This commission essentially be in charge of licensing police officers. They will have to be licensed by the state to perform as a police officer. There will be several things to required to achieve that. There will be many things would strip the ability for someone to be a police officer.”

He said the commission will begin by reviewing every current law enforcement officer in the state.

This legislation will impact Belchertown because the department will need to the commission all the current records on current officers as well as those who are presently working in the state who worked for the department in the past, Pronovost said.

Moving forward the department will be held to new standards including more comprehensive background checks on individuals the department intends to hire, send their information to the commission and pending approval and send the new hire to the police academy.

Pronovost said there will need to be updated policies within the department.

“We will need policies on our employee records because now employee records will be accessible under the open records law,” he said. “We will need a complete revamping of our file cabinets.”

Other changes include the use of force policies, execution of search warrants, crisis intervention, officer wellness, and others which will necessitates officer training, Pronovost said.

“Policy and procedure are one of the biggest areas because that entails a lot of work and it’s fair to say most of our policies and procedures will need to be retooled, some redone in a major way, others tweaked,” Pronovost said. “It covers every facet of what we do operationally.”

Part time officers are going to be held to the same training standard as full officers.

“Because they are going to have to conform to every part of police reform, it’s going to be a given it’s going to be difficult to maintain a part time police force in the future,” Pronovost said. “The general opinion from the authors of the legislation is that we don’t have part time doctors that went to part time medical school, we should not have part time officers, the job is too complex. I think there is a fair



PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Belchertown Police Chief Chris Pronovost came before the Selectboard to discuss the ways policing will be changing in Belchertown and across the state.

amount of truth to that.”

Pronovost said the main change is going to be staffing to be able to maintain these mandates put upon the department.

“We need another lieutenant, we need someone that can be responsible for the administrator side of what we’re doing,” Pronovost said. “As well as maintain our accreditation. It was a goal of mine, we’re there, but now it’s going to take a lot of work to maintain that.”

He said while the commission is still being formed, departments will have deadlines throughout this year.

While the board couldn’t vote to allow the chief to hire a new employee since it would influence the 2022 budget, the Selectboard wanted to show support for Pronovost’s efforts to be in accordance with the police reform legislation.

COVID • from page 2

Wolfe said she wants people to know even when COVID-19 isn’t life threatening, it can have a dramatic effect on one’s life.

“It can change your body, and the way you’re used to functioning. It can diminish your coping mechanisms. It can cause or exacerbate disabilities. If you don’t have access to accommodating work, you can lose your income and the ability to support yourself,” Wolfe said. “I know some folks have extremely mild symptoms, or none at all, which can make it feel like COVID isn’t real or not a big deal. I might feel that way myself if I’d had a different experience. After my experience, I’m pretty terrified of having it ever again.”

To Wolfe, this pandemic has highlighted the need for people to care for one another.

“I’m also incredibly privileged to have financial, emotional, physical and work supports in my life currently. It’s much easier to understand what life could be like if I did not,” Wolfe said. “This pandemic has very much highlighted and increased the inequities in our communities. Those who were most vulnerable are even more vulnerable now. I believe more than ever that we must actively show up to care for one another.”

DIRECTOR • from page 1

we need at this time,” he said.

In an interview with Turley Publications, Bell, a Vermont-native, said he wants the Quabbin Health District to know he’s passionate about the health of its residents.

“I attended UMass Amherst for both my bachelor’s and master’s degrees and have really loved the area ever since,” Bell said. “It’s important to me to do a good job protecting the health of the communities in the district, and my family connection to western Massachusetts makes that a more personal goal. I care about the area and the different towns, and I intend to do my best to make each town a healthy place to live.”

Bell studied public health because he believes “it’s critically important, not just at the national or state level, but the local level as well.”

Bell said he worked with Metcalf for three years from 2016 to 2018.

“During that period, I got to spend a lot of time observing how Judy ran the district. What always stood out to me was how much she seemed to genuinely care about the well-being of all three towns (Ware, Pelham and Belchertown),” he said.

Most recently, Bell worked at the COVID-19 officer in Belchertown beginning last summer.

“As the inspector for the Quabbin Health District, I worked primarily in the enforcement side of the field: food inspections, septic plan reviews, etc.,” he said.

With Bell as director, the position of COVID-19 compliance agent will need to be filled.

Previously to his time in the Quabbin Health District, Bell served as a Health Agent in Milton for a year. There was a two-year gap between his time as a health inspector in the Quabbin Health District and the COVID-19 compliance agent when he lived in Canada.

However, the new position as the as the director district will come with new responsibilities.

“I’ll get to oversee that side, but I’ll also have the opportunity to get involved in other aspects of the field, like implementing community-wide initiatives designed to improve the health and well-being of everyone in the three towns,” Bell said. “I expect the position to be equally challenging and fulfilling, and I’m looking forward to doing my best for the communities in the district.”

He is also beginning his tenure as director during a pandemic, which he sees as both intimidating and comforting.

“Taking over for someone with as much knowledge and experience as Judy is a huge job, especially considering how much the Director of Public Health is responsible for,” Bell said. “In some ways, the pandemic

makes this more intimidating, because it puts that much more on the plate of the director. On the other hand, because the pandemic is something that no one has had to deal with in 100 years, everyone in public health is experiencing this as a novel situation. As I take on this new challenge, there’s some comfort in knowing that everyone has to start somewhere and grow into their positions, and the pandemic has really highlighted this fact as we all learn how to get through this together.”

Scholarship Committee vacancy

BELCHERTOWN – The town of Belchertown wishes to fill an at-large seat on the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee’s responsibility includes setting an application process and the disbursement of funds. If you are interested in serving as an at-large member, please submit a letter of interest to the Belchertown Select Board, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 no later than 12 p.m. on Friday, March 12.



ANNUAL CEMETERY CLEANING NOTIFICATION

The Department of Public Works, Maintenance Division will be conducting the annual removal of ALL seasonal decorations within the Towns’ Cemeteries. For anyone wishing to retrieve personal graveside items, please do so before March 15, 2021.

All items will be removed beginning March 15, 2021.

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The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a full-time Heavy Equipment Operator II (Truck Driver/Equipment Operator). Applicants must possess a valid Class B Commercial Driver’s License, a valid 2A Hoisting Engineer License, and a Class A Commercial Driver’s License (preferred if operating tractor-trailer).

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On March 8 from 6 to 7 p.m. on Zoom, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley will celebrate women's achievement by learning more about Ruth Bader Ginsburg-a woman who raised awareness against bias and took action for equality.

Zonta Club to host Zoom on RBG

REGION – Marked annually on March 8th, International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality. The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2021 is 'Choose To Challenge'. A challenged world is an alert world and

from challenge comes change. So, let's all #ChooseToChallenge.

On March 8 from 6 to 7 p.m. on Zoom, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley will celebrate women's achievement by learning more about Ruth Bader Ginsburg-a woman who raised awareness against bias and took action for equality.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A Reading List (<https://libguides.wlu.edu/law/RBG>) highlights texts written by and about Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court. Additionally,

it provides users with information and video on the nomination and confirmation of Justice Ginsburg, some of her most notable opinions and dissents authored as a justice, and several of the cases she argued before the Supreme Court as an attorney.

If you would like to learn more about the legendary RBG and how she might approach some of the events unfolding before us, request an invitation for Zonta's March 8 zoom meeting and submit your discussion questions to info@ZontaQV.org.

Community submissions on memories and experiences of the Belchertown State School

BELCHERTOWN – The history and legacy of the Belchertown State School (BSS) is complex, challenging, and woven into the history of institutionalized care across Massachusetts, and into the history of the town and community of Belchertown.

The Belchertown Justice Collaborative and the Belchertown Community Alliance need your help to facilitate a public art project that will be displayed at the Belchertown State School in the summer of 2021 honoring the lives and traumas of the people who were institutionalized there. This art project, put together with a team

made up in part of BSS survivors, will be in service of memorializing the legacy of the BSS, of giving voice to those harmed by it. It will also work to create space and opportunity for generations of Belchertown community members to reflect on an institution which continues to have such a physical presence in community members' lives today.

And so today, the groups are calling on community members--from people who worked at BSS, to those who had family there, to survivors of the State School--to share their memories, experiences, and reflections on the space in the form of art, words and even fami-

ly memorabilia and photographs. The BCA and BJC are looking to gather as much history on BSS as possible to chronicle and archive it so the history of BSS will not be lost due to time and future development. These reflections and memories will be used to help facilitate the work of creating a public art installation, which will be executed by artist James Blackmore, who is himself a survivor of BSS.

If you have anything you would like to share, email us at belchertownjusticecollab@gmail.com to submit, get in touch, ask questions, or learn more about this project.

BOS • from page 1

He then added that his irritation has been ongoing.

"I want to let you know how insulted I feel. With everything on my plate, I'll get to these when I can. I know these are a priority to some folks, some will never be released to the public if they're part of a personnel record or other legal matter. But I'll plow through them and try to filter them in, so that we can get these voted on before the board overturns by the next election. Every week I come here and I feel like I'm getting sacked by my own team. I'm sorry, that's the way I feel. I work seven days a week and yet no matter how much I do or what I do every week there's

another gut shot."

Following his comments, Brougham left the meeting.

Boscher commented that Brougham's departure "wasn't right."

Gramrossa said while she understands the group is behind on executive session minutes, she didn't intend on insulting Brougham.

"We've lost opportunity for previous board members who are no longer involved to be involved in this process and I recognize there was an attempt to get this going then COVID-19 hit," she said. "I am sorry to hear that Gary is not with us. I'm sorry he took it as an insult. I agree we need to do some of this."

Brougham was not present to give the town administrator's report in the

meeting.

This was not the first occasion Brougham expressed frustration with the board. In the board's previous meeting, Brougham said he was "disappointed" in some of the discussion surrounding adding two members to the fire chief search committee.

"I don't like the suggestion there was not enough information, we've been talking about this since November," he said. "Nobody asked for additional clarification or information. We have hired 25 people in the last 25 years that were mid- to senior-level management and I have never seen this degree of difficulty in assembling a screening committee. To suggest we need an HR function to do this is ridiculous. Please vote, I just can't stand any more of this."

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Belchertown Community Television schedule

BELCHERTOWN – This is the upcoming schedule for Thursday, March 4 to Wednesday, March 10. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this schedule is subject to change.

- Thursday, March 4**
- 8 a.m. – Selectboard – March 1
 - 10 a.m. – Board of Health – March 1
 - 12 p.m. – Finance Committee and Selectboard Joint Meeting – Feb. 24
 - 6:30 p.m. – COVID-19 Task Force – Channel 191
 - 8 p.m. – Selectboard – March 1
 - 10 p.m. – Board of Health – March 1
- Friday, March 5**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 9 a.m. – Services for our Aging Population Forum (taped)
 - 10:30 a.m. – Belchertown Community Garden 2020
 - 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 8 p.m. – Services for our Aging Population Forum (taped)
 - 9:30 p.m. – Finance Committee and Selectboard Joint Meeting – Feb. 24
- Saturday, March 6**
- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
 - 9 a.m. – Belchertown Community Garden 2020
 - 10 a.m. – Services for our Aging Population Forum (taped)
 - 7 p.m. – Belchertown Community Garden 2020
 - 8 p.m. – Services for our Aging Population Forum (taped)
- Sunday, March 7**
- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
 - 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
 - 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
 - 8:30 p.m. – Services for our Aging Population Forum (taped)
- Monday, March 8**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 9 a.m. – Belchertown Community Garden 2020
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 6:30 p.m. – Selectboard – Channel 191
 - 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission – Channel 192
- Tuesday, March 9**
- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
 - 9 a.m. – Services for our Aging Population Forum (taped)
 - 10:30 a.m. – Belchertown Community Garden 2020
 - 7 p.m. – Planning Board – Channel 191
- Wednesday, March 10**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 1 p.m. – Meditation with Lori – Down the Rabbit Hole
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 6 p.m. – Dementia Forum – Channel 191

The BCTV Studio is located at 68 State St., Belchertown. BCTV channels are 191, 192 and 193. The BCTV schedule is available at www.Belchertown.org. On the main title page select “residents,” click on Belchertown Community Television. Selected BCTV shows are also available on Vimeo. Go to www.Belchertown.org, go to quick links and click on “watch meetings and events online.” The schedule is subject to change.

Applications now being accepting for State School public art design panel

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Justice Collaborative and the Belchertown Community Alliance seek paid participants in a public art project aimed at reconsidering the history of the Belchertown State School and reflecting on the future and legacy of the space.

The groups are seeking participants who have lived experience with institutionalization based on perceived disability/ability. Special Priority will be given to individuals who have lived at Massachusetts “State Schools,” especially the Belchertown State School, as the harm and legacy of this institution, in particular, will be the focus of this project.

What is this project? Visual artist, painter, and survivor of the Belchertown State School James Blackmore, in collaboration with many community organizations, are developing a public painting installation at the site of the former Belchertown State School. These paintings will be acrylic reproductions of images developed by former BSS residents through collaborative workshops and independent reflection. This call is for panelists who will be part of a process of workshops, reflections, and conversations that will ultimately create the images on which

Blackmore will base his paintings. The final project will be displayed for approximately two months in the summer of 2021. After this it will be safely stored until a permanent home at the former Belchertown State School property can be found.

You are a good fit for this project if you:

- Have an interest in art, creativity, and self expression
- Have a lived experience with institutionalization
- Have access to regular internet

This project will ask of you:

- A semi-regular (TBD) time commitment over two months to participate in virtual creative conversations, processes, and workshops aimed at reflecting on institutionalization and disability.

Compensation:

- \$500 stipend for each panelist

Timeline:

- Participants will be accepted on a rolling basis until all spots are filled.
- The groups will start accepting people on March 1, and will aim to have all spots filled by March 15.

How to Apply:

- Find the BJC or BCA Facebook or Instagram
- Get in touch with the groups via email (belchertownjusticecollab@gmail.com), text, or call 413-531-4586 indicating your interest.

Microenterprise grants of up to \$10,000 available

Eligible businesses in Belchertown and others encouraged to apply

REGION – The Town of Palmer is leading a regional Microenterprise Assistance Grant Program, awarding up to \$10,000 to eligible businesses in Palmer, Belchertown, Hampden, Hardwick, Ludlow, Monson and Ware that have experienced financial loss due to COVID-19 and the associated shutdowns. Eligible businesses must have five employees or fewer (including the owner), must have been in business since Jan. 1, 2019 and must be able to demonstrate revenue loss caused by the pandemic. The business owner’s family income must fall within certain limits. Other eligibility requirements apply.

The town of Palmer was awarded \$700,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds (funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Federal CARES Act and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development) for this

See GRANTS, page 12 •

REOPENING • from page 1

and then take that turn down like a race what’s going to happen first in March.”

Elstein who motioned to stay in phase three step one, said he believed it would be worthwhile to wait to see how March cases go before moving into a different step.

“The situation is still critical I think its overly optimistic that would improve in the next month,” he said.

Metcalf said as of Monday, Baker proposed moving into phase three step two and tentatively phase four step one on March 22.

Metcalf said she was “really concerned about moving forwarding into that level of group activities on March 22.”

Guardenier said there wasn’t a sig-

nificant difference between one step in phase three and the other.

“It’s gyms, indoor golf facilities, libraries, places of worship, etc. are being increased to 50%, retail to 50%, but they were at 40% in step one. The difference in these things in the industries increasing is not that dramatic from 40% to now 50% whereas, the restaurants are going from 40% and now there is not so much capacity limit it’s a space limit,” she said.

Restaurants in phase three step two can have 50% capacity while maintaining six feet of social distancing, which is space permitting.

Potter said he agreed with Guardenier, adding that the group should wait until its April meeting before going into phase four, step one.

“It’s not going to be a deal breaker is the way I’m looking at it,” he said. “I think we should wait until the next meeting to decide on the next phase, if we want to hold back on that one and stay in the one we’d be in as of March 1.”

Connolly said she believed the group could potentially save lives by being prudent.

“We were smart the last time we put the freeze on (reopening), then all the other towns did it a week or two later,” she said.

Duroshea agreed with Connolly.

“It’s going to be a touch March,” she said. “We need to be extra careful throughout March, if it spills over to the beginning of April, that’s fine.”

The Board of Health is scheduled to meet on April 5.





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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Here’s a return to normalcy: It’s tax time!

February is drawing to a close and that means it’s time to turn the page to no one’s favorite subject – taxes.

Some well-organized residents no doubt have already filed their federal and state returns in time for the first day of processing, which was about two weeks ago. The rest of us have until April 15. Take note of that date, because unless the U.S. Treasury Department or Mass. Dept. of Revenue make an unexpected change, the extended July deadline offered last year because of the pandemic is no longer an option.

Hey, we’ve all been wishing for a return to normalcy, right? Maybe not exactly what you had in mind, but it might make you feel better to consider this a step in the direction of life in a post-pandemic world.

Whether you prepare your returns yourself, pay an accountant or other professional, or have a friend or relative handle your tax filing, here are a few tips that could make this annual rite a little easier and perhaps help save you money:

First and foremost, get organized. Dust off your copy of last year’s return. If you don’t have it and can’t get a copy from your preparer, you can order it from the IRS. If you used one of the many online tax prep software programs, it’s likely archived there.

Gather all of your tax-related documents such as W-2s, 1099s, and other forms you need to prove the income you earned, including Social Security, pension payments, and unemployment benefits, and any withholding you selected (give yourself a pat on the back if you had taxes withheld from the latter two because chances are you’ll get a bigger refund).

If you received federal stimulus payments (either one or both issued in 2020), the good news is they are not counted as taxable income. However, if you received less than the full amount in either or both of the two rounds of stimulus, that could impact your 2020 return, so you’ll want to be able to reference that information.

Did you keep all your receipts for charitable contributions, work expenses eligible for deductions, and the miles you logged on your vehicle for work? If yes, give yourself another pat on the back. If not, you might want to invest some time in getting that together. Documentation of student loan interest paid last year and any debt that was charged off translate into credits and liabilities, too, so you’ll want that at your fingertips.

This is just a starter list. To get a comprehensive checklist of everything you’ll need to be ready for tax return preparation, go to irs.gov or contact your tax prep professional.

We have a resource for you that many might be surprised to learn about — AARP. Did you know the AARP TaxAide program provides IRS-trained volunteers to prepare returns for anyone who asks? Free of charge. This is NOT limited to AARP members or even seniors in general. Taxpayers of any age can use this valuable service. They even handle returns for eligible small businesses. The only limitation is this program is intended for those in the middle-income bracket and lower. There is an income ceiling and those who exceed it are not likely eligible for the service.

For everyone else, it’s a well-regarded service that includes e-filing (which you want; It means faster processing and less time to get a refund if you’re due one). AARP suspended this program just about a year ago in response to the pandemic because the service was provided in-person at libraries, senior centers and other public facilities. Since then, they have had time to plan and adjust and AARP TaxAide now offers drop-off and virtual service using secure servers that protect your Social Security number and other vital personal information.

There are some in-person appointments, but none in our immediate area. For all the information about that program, go to taxaide.aarpfoundation.org.

So, are you ready to “render unto Caesar?” If not, make it a priority. April 15 will be here before you know it.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the The Sentinel please email sentinel@turley.com.



SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Should I put in for SSI now, or at 70?

RUSSELL GLOOR
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I’m currently 67-years-old and still working full time. I took a big financial hit in 2008, which is why I’m still working, and I expect to continue working until I’m 70. My question is: should I take Social Security now, bank it until I’m 70, and then pay it out to myself upon retirement? Or would it be better to hold off until I’m 70 to claim? Longevity of about 85 seems to run in my family.
Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior: I’m afraid there’s no simple answer to your question, but I’ll give you some points to ponder.

If you don’t need the money right now, and you expect to enjoy at least average longevity (about 85 for a man your current age), then waiting until you’re 70 will give you the maximum monthly benefit and the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits if you meet average longevity. And if you live beyond the average, your cumulative lifetime benefits will be correspondingly more. Since you’ve already delayed past your full retirement age of 66, you are already earning delayed retirement credits (DRCs) at the rate of 8% for each full year you delay (the maximum Social Security benefit is reached at age 70).

Can you do better than an 8% annual increase by claiming now and saving or investing the money? That would be the main point to evaluate, and only you know your investment options. But you should also consider that if you should die before your wife and she has reached her full

retirement age, your wife will get 100% of the benefit you are receiving at your death. If you claim earlier (e.g., now), your wife will get that earlier smaller amount as your widow. Compare that to what she’ll get by you waiting until age 70 to claim, when your benefit will be about 24% more than it is now. Again, something for you to consider.

If you claim at age 70 you will have collected about the same amount of money at age 82 as if you had claimed now. That is your “breakeven” point, which is where your expected longevity comes into play. If you think you will beat the average and you do, you’ll collect much more in total lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until you are 70 to claim. Of course, no one knows how long they will live, but if your family history suggests a long life and you’re in good health now, delaying is usually a prudent choice. That is, however, a decision only you can make.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor at AMAC.

GUEST COLUMN

America rests on people doing the right thing

LEE H. HAMILTON
Guest columnist

As the events of the past few months have unfolded, I have often found myself wondering what our founders would have made of it all. Impossible to know, of course, but they had plenty of insight to offer.

In particular, I keep returning to these lines from James Madison. He delivered them during the Virginia convention to ratify the Constitution, arguing that the surest safeguard against legislators and a government bent on malfeasance is the people themselves. “I go on this great republican principle, that the people will have virtue and intelligence to select men of virtue and wisdom,” he said. “Is there no virtue among us? If there be not, we

are in a wretched situation. No theoretical checks—no form of government can render us secure.” We depend, he said, not on the virtue of the people we elect, but of “the people who are to choose them.”

That pretty much sums it up, doesn’t it? Our country rests on the faith that we the people will do the right thing. The design of our government may be remarkable, but it does not matter nearly as much as the qualities of the American people and their capacity to make it work. If we do not step up, if we do not invest our time and energy and abilities in making the system work, it will not.

One of the remarkable aspects of the founding era was that a relative handful of people, in a country that did not even

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Belchertown, Granby & Amherst
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EDUCATION

Belchertown seniors featured in Q and A



Alexa Ribeiro's graduation cap, she plans on majoring in international relations.

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown High School Principal Christine Vigneux has begun featuring a member of the Class of 2021 in a question and answer survey about their tenure in the school.

Each of the seniors featured decorated a cap sharing their future plans and they have also answered questions about their experiences at “the Nest,” the school community of Belchertown Public Schools.

These seniors will be featured in the Sentinel as well.

Alexa Ribeiro

What are your future plans?
Although I haven't made a final decision yet, I hope to attend a four year university and major in International Relations.



COURTESY PHOTOS
Belchertown High School senior Alexa Ribeiro.

What is your favorite memory from the Nest?
My favorite memory from the Nest is having the opportunity to travel to Peru my sophomore year!
What advice do you have for our younger Orioles?
My advice for younger Orioles is to make the most of every moment. High school goes by so quickly, so don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and try something new!
What is your proudest moment as an Oriole?
My proudest moment as an Oriole has been making it through senior year during a pandemic.

Belchertown children's meals program menu

For the week of March 8 to March 12.
Note: Tuesday through Thursday are small meal kit items
Monday – Breakfast: Mini-waffles and fruit. Lunch: New England chicken salad in a cup, goldfish and baby carrots. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: turkey sandwich.
Tuesday (Small Meal Kits come home) – Breakfast: Cereal and 100% fruit juice. Lunch: Cheese pizza, steamed veggies and a school-baked cookie. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: sunbutter and jelly sandwich.
Wednesday - Curbside Meal Kit Pickup at BHS 11 a.m. from 1 p.m. Remote learning day, no in school meals.
Thursday – Breakfast: Bagel with cream

cheese and fruit. Lunch: Loaded beef and cheese nachos and corn. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: muffin with yogurt.
Friday – Small meal kits come home and orders due today for next week. Breakfast: Muffin and 100% fruit juice. Lunch: Cheesy baked ziti and green beans. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: sunbutter and jelly sandwich.
Note: Pre-k and Kindergarten will offer a daily in-school alternative choice: Muffin, yogurt, vegetable, fruit, and milk.
Grades 1 though 6 will offer a daily in-school alternate choice: Sunbutter and jelly sandwich, vegetable, fruit and milk.
Grades 7 to 12 will offer daily in-school alternative choices: pizza station, deli bar and pre-made salads.

BHS second quarter Honor Roll

Grade 12 High Honors
Abigail Akodu, Laura Bellefleur, Emma Buffone, Katherine Calnan, Joah Choi, Daniel Chrzanowski, Allison Cote, John Cowles, Aadon Crisostomo, Nicholas DaCosta, Lauren Daponde, Juliana Dennehy, Nathan Dragon, Meredith Dulak, Megan Gilman, Sarah Hasegawa-Howard, Kelly Hislop, Sara Howie, Julia Hubbard, David Hulmes, Cole Irving, William Kandar, Juliana Kopec, Sara LaFever, Cody Lambert, Ruby Langlois, Jordan Lanoue, Sophie Laramee, Erin Lucas, Daniel Mahaney, Abigail McBride, Angela Meehan, Ashley Messier, Maya Monteiro, Sienna Murch, Cassandra Roy, Victoria Rybicki, Brooke Samborski, Benjamin Schrenzel, Makenzie Smith, Sarrina Smith, Bella St. George, Matthew Stelmokas, Zachary Stowe-Alekman, Andersen Struzziero, Olivia Vogel, Thaddeus Wegrzyn, Danae Weldon, Monet Williams, Samuel Winston, Ryan Zawistowski and Stephanie Zepke.

Grade 12 Honors
Ethan Andrews, Cameron Bramucci, Alexandra Brooks, Elizabeth Charron, Maxwell Clift, Kaleigh Cooper, Jacklynn Domaingue, Jenna Donovan, Austin Endelos, Aidan Endress, Farrah Forkey, John Gelinass, Kendal Giverson, Christopher Greene, Nicole Hubbard, Mina Kahn, Natalie Loudon, Meredith Medina, Natalie Nowakowski, Caleb O'Brien, Colin O'Connor, Timothy O'Connor, Matthew Pacheco, Kelsey Reardon, Kevin Reidy, Alexa Ribeiro, Matthew Roy, Owen Sedlacek, Madison Smith, Karl Underwood, Jillian Watson, Griffin Weiss, Maxwell Williams and Jaden Wise.

Grade 11 High Honors
Christopher Adzima, Michael Alves, Lexi Brougeois-Meausky, Caitlin Bradshaw, Amy Braese, Lydia Collins, Sarah Cormier, Marjorie Faassen Dymond, Ashley Fuhrmann, Bella Gagne, Monica Gildea, Grace Greenberger, Samuel Hunt, Avery Klingensmith, Morgan Knodler, Alexa LaFlamme, Alexina Laporte, Annette Laporte, Skye Ljungberg, Johnathan Martial, Amy Mas, Caleigh McCormack, Olga Minina, Timothy Mitus, Koy Monette Sara Morley, Aiden Mugford, Ryan O'Rourke, Muiz Okuwobi, Andrew Pope, Laura Potter, Kiley Queiros, Saylor Reed, Tara Richards, Abigail Rivers, Ty Sayball-Wimmer, Gianna Scott, Sarah Sedlacek, Anthony Smith, Emilia Swiech,

Timothy Terault, Thomas Vinagre and Elyssa Wrona.
Grade 11 Honors
Tara Andrews, Cameron Bacon, Joseph Bianco, Abigail Canale, Kiernan Corish, Natalie Daigle, Dylan Duseau, Paige Ivey, Logan Lacroix, Ryann Lauzier, Hunter LePage, Allyson Linkenhoker, Raymond Livengood, Lauren Majerowski, Peyton McLaughlin, Christopher Misiaszek, Kassidy Morrisette, Trevor Mullen, Alanna Niemczura, Sophia Poissant, Nicholas Rivers, Maya Sullivan, Jessa Troy and Hannah Wood.
Grade 10 High Honors
Nicholas Adzima, Chelsea Bachmann-Delgado, Molly Bail, Ty Bogdanovich, Owen Charron, Lindsey Chrabaszcz, Olivia Condon, Lauren Cooper, Sierra Crisostomo, Cameron Dean, John DiNapoli, Peter Elias, Eileen Fraga, Jacqueline Gatesman, Ellianna Gazda, Brandon Gilman, Janelle Gummeson, Daniel Holden, Madeline Jaszek, Chloe Jenks, Despina Kofides, Isabella LaFlamme, Filip Lasiuk, Alannah Lavoie, Callan Martin, Stefania Mayo, Tyler McDonald, Abigail Menard, Grace Menard, Aidan Messier, Jacob Murch, Aida Name, Abigail Olden, Nathaniel Oldenburg, Brady Perkins, Emma Piedade, Lex Piwcio, Kayla Pogoda, Hannah Quesenberry, Julia Richard, Zachary Rodrigues, Tiana Rouleau, Hailey Smith, Kamryn Tellier, Marie Willems, Emma Withers, Michelle Zaluga and Karlie Zych.
Grade 10 Honors
Trevor Adamson, Zackary Aktiv, Benjamin Anderson, Henry Audette, Joseph Baltazar, Riley Breen, Ashton Clark, Ashley Cunningham, Ethan Czapowski, Jack Dragon, Amber Drummond, Casey Drury, Brody Dugger, Logan Edreich, Ryan Fernandes, Isabella Fraga, Brianna Gladu, James Greene, Francis Henderson, William Hill, Oliver Howe, Alexis Jarnagan, Andrew Knapp, James Loudon, Elias Marques, Brady Moreau, Jenna Murch, Olivia O'Connell, Aayush Patel, Allison Pefaur, Jamie Platt, Abigail Potter, Colton Ross, Eliza Rothstein, Nathan Wheeler and Connor White.
Grade 9 High Honors
Jacob Avgoustakis, Zoe Bate, Logann

See HONOR ROLL, page 8 •

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■ GRANBY

Granby Town Clerk reminders

GRANBY – Nomination papers available. Any person interested in seeking elected office in Granby must take out nomination papers from the Town Clerk no later than March 25 to be placed on the May 17 ballot. Papers are available, as of Feb. 1.

Candidates must collect signatures of 40 or more registered voters and return the nomination papers to the Town Clerk’s office by March 29.

Office vacancies for town election, May 17, 2021.

One Selectboard seat, one Board of Assessors seat, one Board of Health seat, Town Moderator, Town Collector, Town Treasurer, two School Committee seats, Commissioner of Burial Grounds and three Library Trustees. Each of these positions have a three-year terms.

There are vacancies for one seat on the Housing Authority, and one position on the Planning Board, both have five year terms. There is also one Library Trustee-unexpired term which has a term of one year.

The calendar of dates for Annual Town Meeting and Election are as follows.

Thursday, March 25, is the last day to obtain town nomination papers.

Monday, March 29 is the last day to file town nomination papers with the Board of Registrars for certification.

Friday, March 26 is the last day to file with Town Administrator for a Private Article for the May 10, Annual Town Meeting.

For a private warrant article to appear on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, a petitioner must acquire 10 signatures of registered voters in the town.

Monday, April 12 is the last day the Board of Registrars will file town nomination papers with the Town Clerk.

Wednesday, April 14 is the last day to withdrawal or object town nomination papers.

Tuesday, April 20 is the last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election.

Town offices are still closed to the public due to the coronavirus. Appointments can be made to pick up nomination papers, please call the Town Clerk to set up an appointment.

The Town Clerk’s office is located at 215 B West State St. If you have any questions please call Kathy Kelly-Regan at 413-467-7178.

Census information: A note of thanks to all the residents who responded to the 2021 Annual Town Census. If you have not mailed in your census please do so, and if you never received a census form call the town clerk’s office.

Dog Licenses: don’t forget to license your dog (Bylaws of the Town of Granby CH XIV).

The cost is \$6 for spayed, neutered, senior dogs over 10 years and puppies, and \$15 for others. To avoid a \$25 late charge fee dogs should be licensed by May 1.

If you wish you may license by mail. Please include a copy of the rabies vaccination or call the clerks office for verification, a self-addressed envelope with Two Stamps, a check made payable to the Town of Granby, and mail to Town Clerk, 215 B West State Street Granby, MA.

To note: for those residents who licensed their dogs through the Annual Town Census this mailing is still being processed, if you have not received your tag you should receive it no later than March 31.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Kathy Kelly-Regan at the Granby Town Clerks office 467-7178.

HONOR ROLL • from page 7

Beaulieu, Natalie Bianco, Chloe Breton, Ellery Buckowski, Brooke Burrows, Isabella Cebula, Emalee Chaisson, Olivia Corbin, Ronald Cormier, Laura Cote, Victoria Damato, Andrew Daponde, Michaela Dubey, Delaney Duseau, Nathan Fernandes, Ellie Gelinas, Kasey Gibbons, Derek Gould, Georgia Greenough, Sarah Hiersche, Kaley Howes, Rainer Kristensen, Parker Krol, Olivia Lafayette, Adrianna Laneiro, Bethany Lavoie, Tanner Lockwood, Mattingly Marques, Karlie Monteiro, Brielle Murray, Sarah O’Connor, Zoe

Patten, Olivia Rosati, Emily Roy, Ava Shea, Camden Skaggs, Ciara Smith, Violet Snook, Nico St. George, Caiden St. Laurent, Victoria Sullivan, Sage Table, Priscilla Thornhill, Cameron Ting, Megan Watts, Trevor Weiss, Maggie Williams and Kami Wlodyka.

Grade 9 Honors

Sophia Aparviz, Riley Cardwell, Isabella Cauley, Luke Cote, Jackson Couchon, Kaden Couture, Abigail Cramer, Nolan Craven, Alena Karbetsos, Kamila Kwietniak, Madysen LePage, Chloe Macaluso, Paige Magner, Tyler Marino, Michael Muscaro, Calahan Orzech, Caleb Perron, Julian Pikul, Dylan Potter, Rylan Queiros, Joe-Ann Richard, Christopher Rivers, Karyna Rondeau, Keira Ryan, Jillian Scott, Brooke Stelmokas, Daniel Thompson and Lucas Wojnas.

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■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor’s note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Feb. 17 through Feb. 23. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 280 calls police responded to, there were 11 incidents, three accidents, zero arrest/summons and one citation.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

There were no arrests this week.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 17

8:55 p.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

Thursday, Feb. 18

3:10 p.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

8:07 p.m. – Officer spoke with individual about ongoing harassment issues. The officer informed the parties about how to obtain a harassment order. The issue was also sent onto the School Resource Officer due to juvenile involvement.

Friday, Feb. 19

5:13 p.m. – Officers responded to a two-car accident. An operator travelling west on Chauncey Walker Rd attempted to turn left onto Barwell St when a second vehicle rear ended the first. The second vehicle was towing a small tailor. The operator of the second vehicle reported they attempted to stop but due to snow, they were unable to do so.

6:21 p.m. – Officers responded to a two-car accident. A dump truck with a plow was travelling east on Oak Ridge Dr when a second vehicle lost control around a curve on a hill. The second vehicle struck the plow on the front of the truck. No injuries were reported.

6:57 p.m. – Officer dispatch to Rockrimmon Rd for a report of person bit by a fox. The fox was still at the residence, but the person was being transported to the hospital by the time officers arrived. People there said they were sledding down the driveway when the fox came from an area where trailers were parked and bit someone on the lower leg. After, the fox back to landscape trailer and approached the group a second time, attacking a snow tube and pulled it under the trailer. The officer observed the fox which began to attack the front bumper of the cruiser. The fox then attacked another snow tube. The fox retreated under the trailer again and the officer euthanized it from a safe distance. The fox was later picked up the fox to be able to check it for rabies.

Saturday, Feb. 20

1:57 a.m. – Officers responded to a one vehicle accident. The vehicle was travelling east on George Hannum Rd when the vehicle left the roadway for 15-feet, driving down an embankment, hitting a tree and stopping with the roof of the vehicle

pinned in the opposite direction. The operator was able to self-extricate and the first responders on scene reported the party had minor injuries. They said they fell asleep on their way home. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

4:34 p.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

Monday, Feb. 22

1:24 p.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

1:28 p.m. – An officer responded to Amherst Rd for a report of a verbal argument between individuals. Officers spoke with the individuals who were given information about filing a 201A. The officer received a call back reporting they wanted to file a report. The court was open and the matter was filed accordingly. Later on, the officer was dispatched back to the residence because of continuing issues with one of the parties.

1:58 p.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

5:05 p.m. – A resident called the station reporting getting a call from someone claiming they were from Amazon. The caller said the reporting party made a charge and the item was getting shipped to Ohio. The caller then told the reporting party to report the matter to the FBI and allow access to their computer to get a refund. The reporting party said there was a sign of pending transaction rather than a refund. They were told to contact their bank. There is no further information at this time.

Granby Police Log

Editor’s Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 133 calls for the week of Feb. 19 through Feb. 25. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.

Friday, Feb. 19

12:12 p.m. – Officers investigated a two-car accident on New Ludlow Rd. No injuries were involved.

9:58 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on East St. The operator drove off the roadway and caused damage.

Saturday, Feb. 20

1:30 p.m. – Emanuel Mojica-Fontanez, 28, of 127 Sargent St, Holyoke, was arrested on a warrant.

Monday, Feb. 22

9:21 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Amherst St. The operator drove off the roadway and caused property damage.

4:56 p.m. – Officers investigate two car accident. No injuries reported.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

9:47 a.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Amherst Rd and Amherst St. The operator drove off the roadway and caused damage.

10:53 p.m. – Officers issued a criminal citation issued for operation with a suspended license.

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Tigers pick up pair of wins in late season

SOUTH HADLEY – After having its season reinstated by the school committee, the South Hadley High School ice hockey team, which co-ops with Granby High School, sprung into action and fit seven games into the final three weeks of the winter season. After struggling to get the rust off in the first few games, South Hadley rebounded to finish 3-3-1, including two wins in their final three games.



Josh Chateaufneuf, one of the Granby members of the team, takes a wrist shot.



Kadyn Laramée shoots in traffic.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Matt Brunelle skates toward the goal.



Joe Meon tries to pull the puck away from the wall.

Pioneers defense struggles

PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional High School boys basketball team had a tough run in the winter season, going just 1-6. Their defense struggled late in the season, allowing a lot of points to opponents despite having a decent scoring attack. The Pioneers season started late, on Feb. 12, after the team had to wait to be cleared to play due to high-risk COVID status for most of January.



Darren Woward shoots for the Pioneers.



Nick Beaulieu shoots alone on the hoop.



Austin Lagimoniere eyes the basket.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Jordan Talbot reaches out for a layup.

RACING

Racers gearing up for modified series

SEEKONK – When the Tri Track Open Modified Series season takes the green flag on May 1 at Monadnock Speedway, the field will be stacked full of talent. One of the talented stars is rising New Hampshire racer Matthew Kimball, who is a former Mini Stock champion and currently a competitor in the Sportsman Modified division at multiple tracks in the Granite State.

Kimball, who does have limited starts with Tri Track, is hoping to be able to run the entire six-race

slate in 2021. His most important goal will be to be consistent, learn more about the Tour-Type Modifieds, and come home with solid top-10 finishes. He also plans to compete full-time at Monadnock in the Apex Racing No. 11 in the track's Sportsman Modifieds and hopes to chase the NASCAR Division I National Championship, if the first few weeks of the season go well.

"It's always good to try and get your name out there and this

is a great opportunity to do that," Kimball said. "We want to win races, but we are going to go race-by-race, and see what the schedules look like, so we don't have conflicts. We're going to take this year step-by-step. We would like to finish top-10 in the Tri Track points."

Kimball, who won the Mini Stock title at Monadnock in 2018, started his career in go-karts, and moved to the Mini Stocks at the age of 13. From there, he sat behind the wheel of a modified at full speed for the first time at age 15, and the experience was different from anything he had dealt with before -- but he found success quickly.

"My dad had a few championships before I took over and it didn't take me too long to adapt to it," Kimball said. "I won my first race just four weeks into the season. I practiced a lot before getting into a race -- ran it towards the end of the year, and during practices, we went out as much as possible. Once you get comfortable in the car, it's like driving any other race car."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Matt Kimball is another hopeful to win the Tri Track this year.

See **RACING**, page 10 •

Wrestling still not cleared for competitions as spring looms

GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In an effort to fit every sport into the modified high school seasons, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association decided to move wrestling from the winter to the spring season. With football occurring during the Fall 2 season, it was decided wrestling should take place during the spring.

However, at a recent meeting of MIAA Wrestling Committee, it was announced the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs had still not cleared the sport of wrestling for Level 3 activity, which allows for competitions to occur. If wrestling is not allowed to have level 3 activity, meets cannot occur.

In the meeting, it was reported that foot-

ball will be observed during the next three weeks. Due to the close contact involved in football, the EEA will be looking at the sport to compare it to the close contact that will occur in wrestling. Spring sports are set to begin in late April, early May.

According to the minute of the committee meeting, if the EEA makes the decision to move wrestling into the level 3 status, then modifications for the sport will be presented for approval by the MIAA.

In addition to observation of football, the status of vaccination in the Commonwealth will also play into the lifting of restrictions at the state level. It was recently announced large sports venues like Fenway Park would be allowed to open beginning March 22 at 12 percent capacity as part of the beginning of Phase 4 of the state’s re-opening plan.

Nominees for volleyball hall announced

HOLYOKE – The list of 25 nominees for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame 2021 Induction has been announced and the Fan Vote presented by Mizuno is now officially open through Feb. 28.

Fans can vote daily for as many nominees as they feel are deserving of Induction. The top 5 nominees selected by the public will comprise a “fans’ ballot” that will be tallied along with the official selection committee ballots to pick the Class of 2021 inductees. “These 25 nominees represent 11 different countries and some of the biggest names in volleyball from the past two decades and beyond,” said George Mulry, Executive Director of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. “Having to skip the 2020 class of Inductees because of COVID has created a bit of a backlog that’s resulted in perhaps the strongest list of nominees top to bottom we’ve ever had. I think it’s going to be really hard for people to nar-

row down their Fan Vote selections but it will also make this year’s Induction that much more special for the selected class.” The new class of Inductees will be announced in March and the 2021 Induction Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23 and will be live streamed for anyone that cannot travel to Holyoke. Induction Celebration tickets will go on sale when the new class is announced.

The nominees are: Taismary Agüero, Dr. Rolf Andresen, Manuela Benelli, Gianfranco Briani, Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann, Dr. Gabriel Cherebetiu, Sergio Dutra Santos, Giovane Gavio, Linda Hanley, Barbara Jelic-Ruzic, Pieter Joon, Siegfried Kohler, Peter Lange, Andre Meyer, Samuele Papi, Carmelo Pittera, Bernardo Rezende, Todd Rogers, Yumilka Ruiz, Ricardo Santos, Clay Stanley, Sergey Tetyukhin, Logan Tom, Fernanda Venturini, and Elaine Youngs.

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilt hunter@comcast.net.

Blue Sox name new general manager

HOLYOKE – Valley Blue Sox President Fred Ciaglo announced the hiring of Kate Avard as the team’s new General Manager.

Avard, 22, will be returning to the Blue Sox organization after interning with the team during the 2016 season. The Easthampton, MA native, originally from Holyoke, is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she earned a B.S. degree in Sport Management from the Isenberg School of Management and a B.S. degree studying kinesiology from the School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

“We’re very excited to appoint Kate as our new General Manager,” said Ciaglo. “Having previously served as one of our interns, she knows the culture and community-oriented mission of our organization. Given her education in sport management, Kate will bring strong business fundamentals, creativity and a passion for baseball to the Blue Sox front office.”

While at UMass Amherst, Avard served as the Intramural Special Events Assistant and held multiple internships within the

Athletic Department. After graduating from UMass Amherst, Avard enrolled in graduate courses studying athletic training and emergency medicine at Boston University.

Avard is eager to return to MacKenzie Stadium and expand her role with the organization.

“Growing up in Holyoke, I attended many Holyoke Giants games, then later Blue Sox games, with my family which is where I fell in love with the sport of baseball,” said Avard. I later interned with the team and saw firsthand the positive influence the team had on the local families and local community, similar to what I had personally experienced growing up,” she added.

“The Blue Sox reputation has grown tremendously over the past few years, making the team a staple throughout Western Mass, said Avard. “Stepping into the role of General Manager, I hope I am able to build upon the relationship the organization has with the community and grow the team in the coming years.”

HAMILTON • from page 6

number 4 million at the time, developed a constitution with very little to go on and then made it work. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton and a few others had the skills, knowledge and insight to hammer out, debate and craft a system from the ground up, then to articulate it and persuade the political elite that this republican form of government could work.

And what may have been most impressive was that they had confidence in the notion that people had the capacity to govern themselves. Yes, they hedged, both in the elaborate balance of power they built and in who actually got to vote. But they also created a system that, over the centuries, was capable of expanding the franchise and delivering a more equitable, broader voice in government because that was the idea at its core.

A key aspect of that idea, as Madison articulated, is that virtue is part of republican government. This sounds strange to say in the modern world. We tend to think of “virtue” as moral probity or honesty or integrity. Madison and the other founders had something more encompassing in mind. They thought of virtue as including a sense of civic self-sacrifice: the ability to overcome self-interest and act for the benefit of the broader community. And they expected it not just in political leaders, but in citizens themselves.

What may be most striking is that they had confidence in the American people

to carry out this grand experiment and believed in the patriotism and capacity of those people to serve as protectors of civil liberties and of the due process of democracy. I could not help but think of that faith in the wake of last November’s election, as countless poll workers and elections officials in towns and cities and states around the country stoically carried on their work to the best of their ability in the face of unrelenting antagonism.

We remain in a time of great testing for the system Madison and his generation created. Though it is a remarkable constitutional design, created during a period of enormous change, turmoil and confusion, they understood that the whole thing would fail if the people lacked the capacity to make it work. A lot of Americans have lost trust in the government, in the system as a whole, and in one another. This is not without reason. But it helps to look back and remember that everything rests on us—on our ability to choose our leaders wisely, to work with one another and to reward the founders’ faith that ordinary people can, by dint of their efforts, make this a more perfect union.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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RACING • from page 9

Kimball competes regularly at Monadnock, Hudson Speedway, Claremont Speedway and occasionally Lee USA Speedway, and plans to focus on Monadnock full-time this season, along with Tri Track. Driving the No. 50 machine, Kimball has learned the ropes of the Modified over the last few years, but knows he needs to continue to soak up the environment to be successful at the level of Tri Track competition. He finished sixth and seventh in the two Tri Track races on Monadnock’s high-banks last year.

“It’s a pretty big difference racing-wise from a Mini Stock to a Modified, but it just takes a few laps to get used to the throttle and the power,” Kimball said. “The biggest difference is the tone of the race. It’s a lot different trying to save your tires, versus a crate car, where you go hard the whole time. I still have to figure it out. I have to figure out adjustments to make it last more than 80 laps, so we are there at the end. A lot of it is experience -- you don’t really see many guys jump in a tour car and just be there at the end.”

He’s excited to continue to race with the talented field Tri Track

offers, and is looking forward to visiting Seekonk Speedway for the first time in his career. Tri Track’s 2021 schedule includes two stops at Monadnock, his home-track, two at Seekonk and two at Star Speedway, where Kimball has limited laps.

“It’s a lot different racing against the big names, but they were in the same shoes we were at one point in their career,” Kimball said. “I’ve never even been to Seekonk, so that will be tough. But I feel confident in Monadnock and I’ve won at Star in the Mini Stock. The difference at Star with a car with a lot more power will require a different line and everything. It should be a lot of figuring out different setups this year.”

With support from his family and friends, and his sponsors, Kimball wouldn’t be able to drive on the track. His sponsors include APEX Racing, KRJ Jewelry, Edmunds Ace Hardware, Peterboro Tools, Tyler’s Small Engines, Trends of Fashion, Birch Wood Inn, Beangroup and more. He’s lucky to have a stout list of supports behind him to help him compete at a high-level.

“I’m just going to be playing it by ear and get the cars ready and go for Monadnock, I’ll be running three races in that same weekend,” Kimball said. “Between the two Sportsman

Modified races and the Tri Track race, it will be a busy weekend. I’m also going to be able to race my dad, who will run our family car in a few races this year. I’ve beaten him three times, and he’s beaten me once, so hopefully I can keep the good streak going. I’m just hoping to be there at the end of each race this year.”

Kimball is just one of more than 15 drivers who have already registered to compete in the entire Tri Track slate for the 2021 season. Registration is open and teams can register at TriTrackModifieds.com/team-info. Teams have the option to either sign-up for the whole season or just one single race.

The Tri Track Open Modified Series will visit three historic New England tracks, twice each, to make up the six-race schedule for 2021. The series will stop at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, New Hampshire on May 1 and August 14, while visiting Star Speedway in Epping, New Hampshire on May 22 and July 24. The anticipated return to Seekonk Speedway, scheduled for June 30 and October 23, will mark two staple events -- the \$10,000 to win Open Wheel Wednesday in June and the Haunted Hundred to wrap the season.

SENIORS

Belchertown Council on Aging March update

BELCHERTOWN – March 16 marks one year that the Belchertown Council on Aging, Senior Center building has been closed to the public.

BCOA staff has worked tirelessly throughout this past year to be sure that all needs are taken care of.

COA staff know how hard it is on people in the community to stay safer at home. The COA look forward to the future and being back together. Until then, don't go without...food, heat, conversation, exercise.

Consistent adjustments to how the COA offer its services are made to be sure those who serve remain as safe as possible.

If we can help you or someone you know, please call the senior center.

22,053 meals were cooked in the building by nutrition staff and were delivered by Meals on Wheels drivers between March 15, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020.

Approximately 100 meals a day Monday through Friday are currently being delivered by BCOA.*

Food Distribution Programs offered 321 individuals, 1,233 ways to receive food. Examples include the monthly brown bag, ASC food pantry, gift cards, protein boxes, farmer's market coupons, etc.

The Amherst Survival Center Mobile Food Pantry gifted our friends 32,627 pounds of food between March 2020 – Jan. 2021.

Medical and safety programs filled 263 requests for medical equipment, lock boxes, house numbers, foot care and flu vaccines.

The BCOA van transported 37 clients, on 153 occasions between July 1, 2020 to Jan. 31, 2021.

613 times, drive through parades or virtual classes for exercise, information or socialization were attended.

561 Outreach and Social

Services were accessed by 301 people. These include applications and assessments completed for insurance, fuel assistance, home delivered meals, housing etc. Wellness calls & visits, delivery of essential items, SHINE services, and referral for services were all addressed.

21 people humbly completed all these tasks, with courage, teamwork and utmost safety.

The COA thanks the Belchertown Police Department neighbors for their assistance unloading the ASC truck monthly.

Everyone's Irish on St. Paddy's Day!

Try your luck at the COA's Paddy's Day giveaway! The first 50 people can drive through for a grab and go gift and a free raffle ticket for a chance to win the scratch ticket shamrock loaded with \$100 of scratch tickets! Please drive through on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, between 2 to 2:30 p.m. If technology permits, tune in to radio station 88.9 for Celtic music to enjoy on your spin through, or park and stay a while.

USSR – Russia Myths, Mysteries, and Spying

Presented by Henry M. Quinlan, Esq. The event is sponsored by the Belchertown Senior Center Friends Group, registration is required to attend this one hour Zoom presentation on March 25 at 4 p.m. Remember, you may join via computer, tablet or smart phone to view the PowerPoint presentation on your screen or call in with a telephone to simply listen in. Hear from Henry M. Quinlan, owner and publisher of Omni Publishing Company, during this presentation about his 30 plus years of involvement with the former Soviet Union and Russia.

Information includes his time lived in Moscow, during the demise of the USSR and the rise

of the new Russia. The presentation will both entertain and educate!

Some Presentation Features

Hermitage, Bolshoi, Kremlin, and Pushkin Museums, Palaces, Moscow Subway.

The Three Great Mysteries of Russia: The Amber Room, The Czar's Jewels, and The Art taken by Napoleon.

Soviet Union in WW2.

Tour of Soviet Space facilities with Wally Schirra.

Summit 1990 President Gorbachev and President G. H. Bush.

Overthrow of Communism – Dismantling the USSR. Tanks in the streets.

Spying for the F.B.I.

Publishing first telephone book in USSR since 1934 and Publishing "Make Way for Ducklings" in Russian in Russia.

Capitalism takes hold along with Russian Mafia. Encounters with the Russian Mafia.

Please call or email Katy for a Zoom invite by Friday March 19 for this program to be offered.

Do you have skills to share?

The Social Services Dept. is seeking skilled workers to assist older adults in Belchertown. The BCOA keeps and is updating a private pay list of skilled workers to share with individuals inquiring with specific needs.

Those with skills they would like to share within the community are encouraged to apply. The Senior Center does not employ the worker, simply offers the contact information as a courtesy to those inquiring. Work is performed for individuals on an as needed-basis and the fee charged is agreed upon between worker and Belchertown resident.

Services currently sought and/or contacts being added to:

- Homemaking
- Personal Care
- Transportation to Appts

- Running Errands
- Grocery Shopping
- Hairstylists / Barbers
- Seamstress
- Dog Grooming
- Carpentry
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Painting
- Yardwork
- Shoveling / Plowing

If you have any of the above skills or other expertise and would like to be a part of the private pay list, please contact Laurene Kendall at 323-0420, ext. 505 for an application. A CORI check and phone interview is required as part of the application process.

Call2talk is here

What is Call2Talk? Providing service since 2013, Call2Talk is the mental health component of Mass211. Those who are struggling with mental health concerns have a safe place to call and will be encouraged to discuss their current experience. By sharing their personal stories of tragedy, recovery, despair and grief, callers feel relief, comfort and hope. Calling Call2Talk is the first step toward getting the help and emotional support callers so desperately need.

Helpline – Calls are free and confidential. Some of our callers feel overwhelmed, sad or lonely. Sometimes callers feel confused, ashamed or hopeless. If you are in emotional pain or know someone who is, please call the COA. 508-532-CALL (2255) or dial 2-1-1, ext. 25

Telecheck – Telecheck is a telephone check-in service for older adults living at home. An experienced Call2Talk call taker will reach out to a senior at home 1-2 times per week to provide support and friendly conversation at a convenient time. For a telecheck referral call 508-573-7200, Intake Dept.

Volunteer – Call2Talk

Volunteers make a difference in the lives of our callers everyday. Our call takers are empathic and compassionate people who simply listen to those that need a friendly ear and a caring voice. Training is free and there is ample support through the process of becoming a call taker.

To learn more visit: mass211.org/call2talk

Call2Talk is available 24 hours a day/seven days a week to provide mental health and emotional support to individuals and families through stressful times in their lives.

This is a service of the United Way of MA and Mass 2-1-1.

Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Community Designation: Input Needed!

Please help by attending the virtual community forum held on March 10. This forum is hosted on Zoom and broadcast live on BCTV with a call-in number to gather community comments. The purpose of the forum is to gather input from residents on the opportunities and challenges facing older adults and people with dementia in Belchertown. The forums are part of a Community Assessment process that the Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Working Group is developing with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC).

The Age and Dementia Friendly Belchertown project is part of a larger Pioneer Valley initiative with funding from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation. PVPC is providing technical assistance to communities in the Hampden and Hampshire Counties to help them receive the designation of an Age and Dementia Friendly Community.

The results of this forum and

See COA, page 12 •



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Nominations sought for region’s oldest community service award

SPRINGFIELD – The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts is seeking nominations from throughout Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties for the Pynchon Award, which recognizes those citizens of our region who have rendered distinguished service to the community.

The Order of William Pynchon was established by the Advertising Club in 1915 to recognize and encourage individuals whose lives and achievements typified the ideals of promoting citizenship and the building of a better community in western Massachusetts. Past recipients include war heroes, social activists, teachers, volunteers, philanthropists, historians, clergy, physicians, journalists, public servants, and business leaders

— a diverse group; each with a passion for our region and a selfless streak. A complete list of recipients since 1915 can be found at <http://www.adclubwm.org/events/pynchonaward>.

To nominate an individual, please submit a one-page letter explaining why the nominee should be considered. Please include biographical information, outstanding accomplishments, examples of service to the community, organizations he or she is or has been active in, and the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of at least three people who can further attest to the nominee’s eligibility for induction into the Order of William Pynchon. The Pynchon Trustees respectfully reserve the right to eliminate nominations from consideration

due to insufficient information.

Qualifying nominees will be considered and researched by the Pynchon Trustees, composed of the current and five past presidents of the Advertising Club. Nominations must be submitted by March 19, 2021 to: William Pynchon Trustees, Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts, P.O. Box 1022, West Springfield, MA 01090-1022 or by e-mail to info@adclubwm.org.

Pynchon medalists are chosen by unanimous decision of the Pynchon Trustees. 2021 recipients will be announced in June of this year, with an awards ceremony tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2021. Recipients are presented with a bronze medal cast with the name and likeness of Springfield’s founder,

William Pynchon, and bearing the inscription: “They honor us whom we honor.” The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts is the premier organization for all marketing and communications professionals in western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. The club offers its members the ability to advance and enrich the advertising community, by acting as a catalyst for idea exchange, professional development and creative energy. The club offers its members a forum to learn, network, recognize achievement and give back to build a stronger advertising and marketing community. Learn more at adclubwm.org.

For more information, go online to adclubwm.org.

CHARTER DAYS • from page 1

Committee Chair Crystal Dufresne.

“We waited obviously with the strict guidelines to schedule everything as you know last year it got cancelled there are still strict guidelines from the state as far as big groups or large groups getting together,” Dufresne said. “I know you guys can’t see the future, but it is something that we do have to plan for. It is an outdoor event, but people are in tight quarters at the park. Some things I thought about if we have to minimize the amount of people that went at one time that can be hard to do because we can’t fence it in.”

Board of Health member Richard Bombardier said his guess was that the vaccination program is going to be behind.

“At this instant, we don’t even have authorization I don’t know vaccination will come to vaccinate youths, so it’s reasonably certain that even if we had the vaccine available, it wouldn’t be distributed all the way. My guess is that it’s not going to be opened by then.”

Board of Health Lee Lalonde said

given the “off-pace” nature of the last 10 to 12 weeks in the country, vaccinations “may not be anywhere near our goals.”

“Crowds of that size may not be in anyone’s best interest, unfortunately,” Lalonde said.

Board of Health member Herb Abelson agreed.

“I don’t think that it would be wise to hold this,” he said. “I don’t think there is any assurance that we or you or anyone else could say it was a safe undertaking. We know that kids don’t transmit the same, but there are going to be lots of adults there. We know most of the transitions are from asymptomatic people so even if they’re not ill.”

Dufresne said the Charter Day Committee was anticipating the cancellation.

“We would need to open up Charter Day like it would be in the past in order to make enough money to have it again next year so I’d rather not take the chance, take a hit and not have the money to be able to do it next year,” she said. “I know a lot of people are looking forward to being outside, but I don’t think it’s a smart idea to put thousands of people in our community together.”

GRANTS • from page 5

regional program. The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QV CDC), located in Ware, is administering the program locally.

“We are grateful to the federal government and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to have this opportunity to assist our region’s small businesses during this very difficult time,” said Sarah Szczebak, Community Development Director for the Town of Palmer. “We encourage all eligible small businesses in these seven towns to apply for a Microenterprise Assistance Grant.”

Applications for the program will be available on Oct. 16.

Grant awards will be made on a first-

come, first-served basis until the funds are exhausted. To learn more about the Microenterprise Assistance Grant Program, contact Melissa Fales at melissa@qvcdc.org or 413-967-3001. Applications are available on the QV CDC website at www.QV CDC.org. Paper copies of the application are also available at the QV CDC office in Ware.

The Quaboag Valley CDC/BAC is an equal opportunity employer, lender and provider and does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, family/parental status, national origin, race, religions, sex, gender identity (including expression), sexual orientation, marital status, income derived from public assistance programs, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

COA • from page 11

the Livable Community Survey will be used to develop a Community Assessment and Action Plan for making Belchertown a more livable community for people of all ages and abilities. Your valuable response to the survey is requested.

It can be accessed directly at <https://tinyurl.com/AFBBelchertown> and is also posted on the Council on Aging website at https://www.belchertown.org/council_on_aging_senior_center/index. Request a hard copy form by contacting BCOA Executive Director, Jessica Langlois at 413-323-0420, ext. 503. All respondents may enter a drawing to receive a Stop and Shop gift card. For Age Friendly Community effort info contact Becky Basch at bbasch@pvpc.org.

March 10 from 6 to 7 p.m.

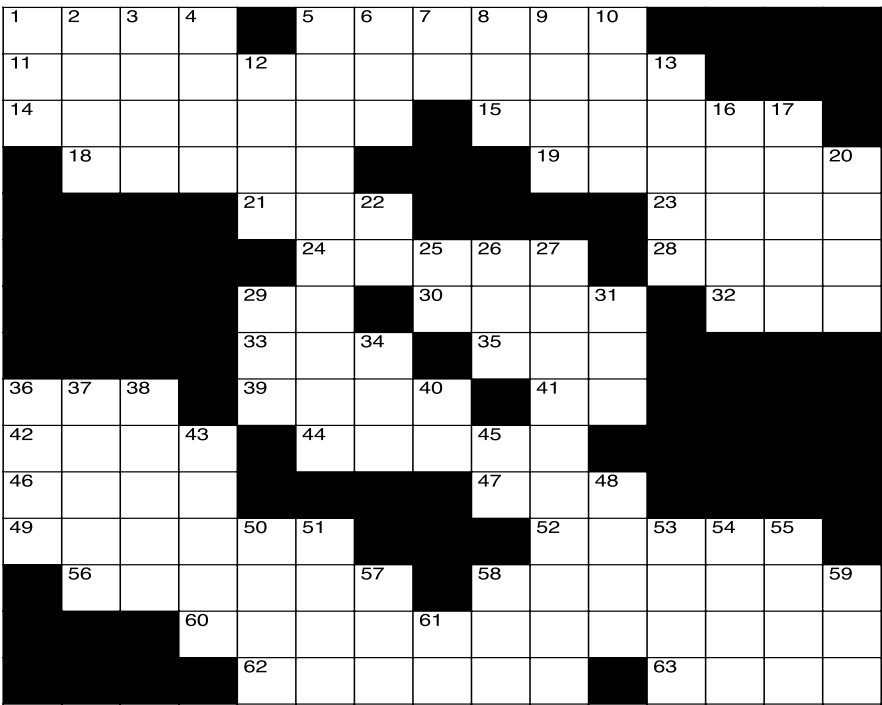
Focus: people living with Dementia and as a Dementia Friendly Community, how to raise awareness, recognize, work with and support people with dementia, and the caregivers who look after them. Meghan Lemay of the Alzheimer’s Association will speak about the 10 early warning signs of

dementia and available services.

Register for the March forum by using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/AFBForum2>.

March meals

- 1 Vegetable lasagna
- 2 Cranberry chicken
- 3 Salisbury steak
- 4 Fish with crumb top
- 5 Liver and onions
- 8 Spanish rice and beef
- 9 Potato pollock
- 10 Pot roast
- 11 Blueberry French toast
- 12 Chicken cacciatore
- 15 Turkey and gravy
- 16 Alaskan breaded
- 17 American Chop Suey
- 18 Baked chicken
- 19 Corned Beef
- 22 Hot dog
- 23 Broccoli quiche
- 24 Spaghetti and meatballs
- 25 Roast pork
- 26 Chicken pot pie
- 29 Cheese ravioli
- 30 Hamburg and gravy
- 31 Turkey divan



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One of Noah’s sons
- 5. Openings
- 11. Rising from the dead
- 14. Expressions for humorous effect
- 15. North American country
- 18. Flowed over
- 19. Tags
- 21. Long-lasting light bulb
- 23. Off-Broadway theater award
- 24. Khoikhoi peoples
- 28. Beloved movie pig
- 29. South Dakota
- 30. Tai language
- 32. Get free of
- 33. Afflict
- 35. Transmits genetic information from DNA
- 36. Commercials
- 39. Digits
- 41. Expression of sympathy
- 42. Bleats
- 44. Swiss Nobel Peace Prize winner
- 46. Vegetable
- 47. Turf
- 49. Disorganized in character
- 52. Takes
- 56. Rules over
- 58. More fervid
- 60. Sweet drink
- 62. Cry loudly
- 63. A friendly nation

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A title of respect in India
- 2. His and ___
- 3. Employee stock ownership plan
- 4. A type of bond

- (abbr.)
- 5. Acting as if you are
- 6. Affirmative
- 7. Not caps
- 8. Type of medication
- 9. Monetary unit
- 10. Private school in New York
- 12. Small stream
- 13. A person of wealth
- 16. Exclude
- 17. Someone who vouches for you
- 20. Vegetable part
- 22. Gov’t lawyer
- 25. Term to address a woman
- 26. Swiss river
- 27. About senator
- 29. ___ Paulo, city
- 31. Native American tribe
- 34. “Titanic” actor
- 36. Campaign for students’ rights
- (abbr.)
- 37. Capital of Senegal
- 38. Slang for military leader
- 40. Football’s big game
- 43. Women who threw themselves on funeral pyres
- 45. Equally
- 48. Forest animal
- 50. Heavy stoves
- 51. Releasing hormone (abbr.)
- 53. Song
- 54. Type of pickle
- 55. Offer in return for money
- 57. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 58. Burns wood (abbr.)
- 59. Beloved singer
- Charles
- 61. Three-toed sloth



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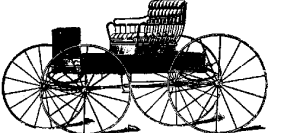
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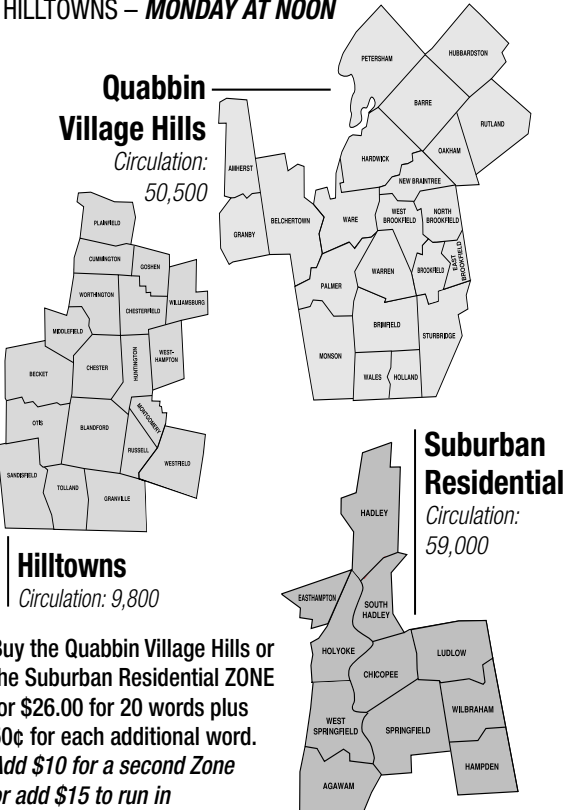
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Northfield Mountain hosts virtual events

VIRTUAL – Northfield Mountain in collaboration with Dickinson Memorial Library and Northfield Bird Club will be hosting these upcoming virtual events.

Native Plants as Insect Habitat
On Tuesday, March 9, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., join Charley Eiseman for this beautifully illustrated program highlighting common native plants, host-specific insect relationships and the insects themselves. Eiseman shares his fascination and enthusiasm for the world of insects in his programs as well as in his popular BugTracks blog and award-winning book, Tracks and Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates: A Guide to North American Species. His scientific discoveries include many new species of insects, even several found in his own front yard. Find out what can happen if you stop mowing your lawn. This free Zoom event is co-sponsored with the Dickinson Memorial Library and

the Northfield Bird Club. To register email dmemlib@gmail.com

Awakenings: Early Signs of Spring

From a springtail migration of millions to delicate spring wildflowers, this illustrated virtual program highlights early spring. March and April are filled with signs of spring's arrival such as the sky dance of the woodcock and the annual migration of spotted salamanders. These subtle to showy changes in the plant and animal world in March and April are a feast for our senses. Join Kim Noyes, Firstlight Power's Northfield Mountain Education Coordinator, on Tuesday, March 16 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., for this presentation about New England's plants and animals during the steady progression of early spring. This free on-line event is co-sponsored with the Northfield Bird Club. To register, go to www.bookeo.com/northfield.



Join another informative virtual program co-hosted by Northfield Mountain.

field. Registration requests must be received at least 24 hours before the program begins.

Tuesday
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with Charley Eiseman

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PUBLIC NOTICES

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
OFFICE OF TAX COLLECTOR
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

To the owners of the hereinafter described land and to all others concerned, you are hereby notified that on **March 19, 2021 at ten o'clock a.m.** at 2 Jabish Street, pursuant to the provisions of General Law Chapter 60, Section 53, and by the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Belchertown the following parcels of land for non-payment of taxes, liens, betterments, and/or CPA surcharges due thereon with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

GATESMAN, STEPHANIE M & GATESMAN ANDREW: A certain parcel of land situated at 32 Maplecrest Drive, containing 1.61 acres of land more or less with buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown Assessors Map 263 040.000 and as described in H.C.R.D. Book 8271, Page 273: FY2020 Real Estate \$1,578.86, FY2020 CPA \$16.92.

JACKSON, NEIL M & JACKSON, MARCELLA L: A certain parcel of land situated on South Gulf Road, containing 19.88 acres of land more or less as shown on Belchertown Assessors Map 206 019.130 and as described in H.C.R.D. Book 12763, Page 41: FY2020 Real Estate \$1,799.15, FY2020 CPA \$2.64.

KICZA, GEORGE H SR & KICZA JOANNE: A certain parcel of land situated at 185 Orchard Road, containing 29,185 square feet of land more or less with buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown Assessors Map 217 060.000 and as described in H.C.R.D. Book 8738, Page 222: FY2020 Real Estate \$1,691.19, FY2020 CPA \$11.85.

KUC, RICHARD M: A certain parcel of land situated on Railroad Street, containing 31,798 square feet of land more or less as shown on Belchertown Assessors Map 281 038.010 and as described in H.C.R.D. Book 11364, Page 333: FY2020 Real Estate \$56.33.

LAZARZ, ALBERT J: A certain parcel of land situated on Gulf Road, containing 1.00 acres of land more or less as shown on Belchertown Assessors Map 206 008.020 and as described in H.C.R.D. Book 8630, Page 225: FY2020 Real Estate \$426.17.

MATUS, JEAN: A certain parcel of land situated at 39 Depot Street, containing 5,663 square feet of land more or less with buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown Assessors Map 109 039.000 and as described in H.C.R.D. Book 13152, Page 307: FY2020 Real Estate \$1,475.16, FY2020 Sewer Lien \$809.64.

QUABBIN SERVICE CENTER INC., SUBSEQUENT: QUABBIN REALTY HOLDINGS LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 18 Sargent Street, containing 41,817 square feet of land more or less with buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown Assessors Map 238 092.000 and as described in H.C.R.D. Book 13453, Page 47: FY2020 Real Estate \$2,611.29, FY2020 CPA \$ 39.04, FY2020 Sewer Lien \$1,380.42.

Lisa M. Banner
Collector of Taxes

03/04/2021

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
15 Atwood Dr.
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 586-8500
Docket No. HS21P0076EA

Estate of:
William Charles Shaw
Date of Death:
Dec. 17, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Dawn R Morey** of Palmer, MA.

Dawn R Morey of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/04/2021



NOTICE OF
PUBLIC AUCTION
S N O W ' S S E L F
STORAGE LLC, will sell at
Public Auction at 746 Bay
Road, Belchertown, MA, all
the personal property stored
in its facility by:

Larry Foote – M29
Joshua Vermette – M58
At **10:00 a.m., Saturday,
March 20, 2021**, at the
premises of SNOW'S SELF
STORAGE LLC, 746 Bay
Road, Belchertown, MA,
by Warren Schreiber,
Auctioneer, as Agent for
Snow's Self Storage, LLC.

**Snow's Self-Storage
reserves the following
rights: to bid at the public
auction, to refuse any and
all bids, or to cancel the
auction at any time for any
reason.**
02/25, 03/04/2021

Legal Notice
Town Of Belchertown
Board of Health

By the authority granted to the Board of Health pursuant to MGL Chapter 111, sec 31 and sec 122, the duly elected Board of Health voted unanimously on March 1, 2021 to enact the following Emergency Regulations due to the COVID -19 Pandemic:

Activities detailed in Phase 3, step 2 of the Massachusetts Re-opening will not be allowed in the Town of Belchertown. Belchertown will remain in Phase 3 step 1. The Board of Health will reconsider the need for this emergency regulation on April 5, 2021 and at that time may rescind or extend based on the course of the pandemic in Belchertown.

By Order of the Belchertown Board of Health
Leeanne Connolly, Chair
James Potter, Vice Chair
Hope Guardianier
Kenneth Elstein
Colleen Duroshea
03/04/2021

Celebrate Pelham women:
Second installment

PELHAM – After a brief hiatus, the Pelham Historical Society thought you would enjoy learning more about a few of Pelham's female forebears. Their stories can be read more fully in the oral histories found on our website, <https://pelhamhistory.org/oral-history/>.

Gladys Olds Reed (1899-1988) was for many years the Pelham correspondent for the Amherst Bulletin's precursor, the Amherst Journal Record. She played an important role in Pelham's civic life as well. For 31 years she was a 4H leader in Pelham, leading "Quests of Spring," sewing, cooking, garden, flower and "any kind of club you can think of." Together with Dorothy "Dolly" (Page) Ward (1893 -1964) she ran a card party to raise enough money for window screens and doors for two Pelham schools. Gladys Reed, Sally Shepard and Marion Robinson started the Pelham PTA (Parent Teacher Association) around 1928-1929. Reed moderated the first meeting but did not want to be president; instead, to "bring the fathers out" they thought "it would be nice to have a man to head it up." So they elected Raymond Robinson as Pelham's first PTA President. Gladys Reed also was president of the Pelham Women's Club two or three times which already had gone out of existence by the time she was interviewed in 1980. (See Oral Histories, pp. 252- 277).

Floretta Sally Ward Shepard (1889-1980) was a school teacher until she married. She was very civic-minded and took leadership roles in Pelham. She was on the Pelham School Board for 16 years and helped start the Pelham PTA. Shepard was a Girl Scout guide and when the Amherst Girl Scouts did not want to take in all those interested in joining, she helped start a Girl Scout troop in Pelham. After her husband's death in 1945 Sally Shepard held a number of jobs, including working at the Belchertown State School and the Boston State Hospital. She was "happy moving around and doing other things. I think it's good for you..." (See Oral Histories, pp. 330 - 347).

PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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College NOTES

Muhlenberg College announces students named to Fall 2020 Dean's List
ALLENTOWN, PA – Congratulations to the Muhlenberg College students and Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies students who were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.
Students with a term GPA of 3.50 or higher were recognized for this academic achievement.
Local students include: Alyson Rutherford of Amherst and Jonathan Toth of Granby.

Assumption students excel academically, named to Dean's List
WORCESTER – Assumption University has announced those students named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Due to the pan-

demic, this fall semester was divided into two accelerated seven-week terms.
Local students include: Hannah Pomerantz of Granby, Class of 2021; Emma Kearney of Belchertown, Class of 2023; and Patrick Otto of Belchertown, Class of 2023.

Haley DeBettencourt named to SNHU Dean's List
MANCHESTER, NH – Haley DeBettencourt of Belchertown has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's fall 2020 Dean's List. Eligibility for the Dean's List requires that a student accumulate an academic grade point average of 3.5-3.699 and earn 12 credits for the semester.

Local college students named to Baldwin Wallace University Dean's List
BEREA, OH – The following local students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester at Baldwin Wallace

University, according to Provost Stephen D. Stahl. Any full-time student who achieves a GPA of at least 3.6 for 12 or more graded hours or part-time student who achieves a GPA of at least 3.6 for six or more graded hours in the fall or spring semester will be placed on the Dean's List.
Hunter Duseau of Belchertown, a graduate of Belchertown High School majoring in instrumental performance.
Meghan Gildea of Belchertown, a graduate of Belchertown High School majoring in instrumental performance.

Students named to University of Hartford Dean's List
WEST HARTFORD, CT—The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2020.
Jenna Kruse of Belchertown and Hannah Sugrue of Belchertown.

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SLICED IN OUR DELI

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USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICK 10 LB BAG 66¢ lb

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